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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release TUESDAY, JULY 28, 1953

ANNOUNCE 1953-54 HUNTING RULES FOR DOVES, RAILS AND GALLINULES

Containing only few changes in season dates, the hunting regulations which will apply during the 1953-54 season for the shooting of doves, band-tailed pigeons, rails, gallinules, and the taking in certain open coastal waters of scoter, eider, and old-squaw ducks, were announced today by Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay.

Although the regulations released today contain those for the shooting of waterfowl in Alaska, where the season in certain areas begins as early as September 1, the Secretary stated that the detailed regulations for migratory waterfowl and woodcock hunting in the United States will not be issued until the latter part of August.

Adjustments of seasons for hunting mourning doves have been made in several States in accordance with requests from the State game administrators. In Nebraska the mourning dove has been declared a nongame species. In Illinois, Utah, and Wyoming, State officials asked for a closed season on rails and gallinules.

The baiting regulation has been modified this year by eliminating the one-half mile distance limitation.

Shooting hours, except where noted in the footnotes in attached schedules, are the same as last year, as follows:

Rails and Gallinules--The general shooting hours for these birds will be one-half hour before sunrise to sunset but when they are hunted coincident with the hunting season for waterfowl, shooting must cease one hour before sunset. In Massachusetts the starting hour on the first day of the season will be 12 o'clock noon.

Scoter, Eider and Old-Squaw Ducks--One-half hour before sunrise to one hour before sunset, except on the opening day of the season when shooting begins at 12 noon.

Doves and Pigeons--In those States of the Atlantic and Mississippi Flyways which have a dove shooting season, the hours extend from 12 o'clock noon until sunset except in Illinois and Missouri where the hours are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. In the Central Flyway, doves may be hunted from one-half hour before sunrise until sunset, except in Texas where certain hours apply for both mourning and white-winged doves (as noted) and in New Mexico where the shooting hours on the first day of the season will be from 12 o'clock noon until sunset but thereafter from sunrise to sunset. In the Pacific Flyway States where doves and

pigeons are hunted, the hours are one-half hour before sunrise until sunset, except that the starting hour for doves on the first day of the season in California will begin at 12 noon.

In Alaska the shooting hours will be the same as last year, one-half hour before sunrise to one hour before sunset, except on the opening day when shooting begins at 12 noon.

For quick reference, the open seasons, bag and possession limits prescribed by the amended regulations are presented in tabular form by flyways in the attached schedules.

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ATLANTIC FLYWAY STATES

Rails and Callinules (1)

MOURNING OR
TURTLE DOVE

Sora Others

DAILY BAG LIMITS

25 15 (2)

8

POSSESSION LIMITS

25 15 (2)

8

SEASONS IN--(3)

Connecticut (4)

Sept. 1-Oct. 15

Delaware (5)

Sept. 1-Oct. 30

Florida (5)

Sept. 12-Nov. 10 (6)

Georgia (5)

Sept. 15-Nov. 13

Maine (4)

Sept. 1-Oct. 20

Maryland (5)

Sept. 15-Sept. 29 and
Nov. 15-Nov. 29

Massachusetts (4)

Oct. 20-Dec. 18 (7)

New Hampshire (4)

Sept. 1-Oct. 30

New Jersey

Sept. 1-Oct. 30

New York (4)

Sept. 1-Oct. 30

North Carolina (5)

Sept. 1-Oct. 30

Pennsylvania (5)

Sept. 1-Oct. 30

Rhode Island (4)

Sept. 1-Oct. 30

South Carolina (5)

Oct. 1-Nov. 29

Vermont

Sept. 1-Oct. 30

Virginia (5)

Sept. 1-Oct. 30

West Virginia

Oct. 1-Oct. 14

Puerto Rico

Dec. 15-Feb. 12

Oct. 1-Oct. 30

Oct. 1-Oct. 15 and
Dec. 15-Dec. 29

Sept. 15-Sept. 29 and
Dec. 25-Jan. 8

Sept. 15-Sept. 29 and
Nov. 15-Nov. 29

Sept. 15-Sept. 29 and
Dec. 27-Jan. 10

Sept. 15-Sept. 14

Sept. 15-Sept. 29 and
Dec. 26-Jan. 9

Sept. 16-Sept. 30 and
Oct. 17-Oct. 31

ATLANTIC FLYWAY STATES (Continued)

- (1) Rails and gallinules: When permitted to be taken during the waterfowl season they may not be hunted after 1 hour before sunset.
- (2) Not more than 15 in the aggregate of rails (other than sora) and gallinules.
- (3) No open season in District of Columbia but migratory game birds may be possessed there in accordance with § 6.6(c).
- (4) Scoter, eider and old-squaw ducks may be taken in open coastal waters only, beyond outer harbor lines, in Maine and New Hampshire from Sept. 28 to Dec. 31; in Massachusetts from Sept. 16 to Dec. 31; in Connecticut and New York from Oct. 1 to Dec. 31; and in Rhode Island from Sept. 28 to Jan. 5. In areas other than those beyond outer harbor lines such birds may be taken during the open seasons for other ducks. In these States only, the daily bag limit is 7 scoter, eider or old-squaw ducks singly or in the aggregate, and not exceeding 14 in possession singly or in the aggregate of all kinds.
- (5) Shooting hours for mourning doves in States indicated--12 o'clock noon until sunset.
- (6) Florida: Rails (including sora) and gallinules, daily bag and possession limit 15, singly or in aggregate of all kinds.
- (7) Massachusetts: Starting hour for rails and gallinules on first day of season, 12 o'clock noon.

(Note: The season for rails and gallinules in Maine will be prescribed in August.)

MISSISSIPPI FLYWAY STATES

Rails and Gallinules (1)
SORA OTHERS MOURNING OR
TURTLE DOVE

DAILY BAG LIMITS	25	15 (2)	8
POSSESSION LIMITS	25	15 (2)	8

SEASONS IN--

Alabama (3)			Oct. 17-Oct. 31 and Dec. 27-Jan. 10
Arkansas (3)	Sept. 1-Oct. 30		Sept. 15-Oct. 14 Sept. 1-Sept. 30
Illinois			
Indiana	Sept. 1-Oct. 30		
Iowa			
Kentucky (3)	Sept. 1-Oct. 30		Sept. 1-Sept. 30 Dec. 12-Jan. 10
Louisiana (3)	Oct. 1-Nov. 29		
Michigan			
Minnesota	Sept. 19-Nov. 17		
Mississippi (3)	Oct. 7-Dec. 5		Sept. 15-Sept. 29 and Dec. 27-Jan. 10 Sept. 1-Sept. 30
Missouri			
Ohio	Sept. 1-Oct. 30		Sept. 1-Sept. 15 and Oct. 15-Oct. 29
Tennessee (3)	Sept. 1-Oct. 30		
Wisconsin (4)			

(1) Rails and Gallinules: When permitted to be taken during the waterfowl season they may not be hunted after 1 hour before sunset.

(2) Not more than 15 in the aggregate of rails (other than sora) and gallinules.

(3) Shooting hours for mourning doves in States indicated--12 o'clock noon until sunset.

(4) Wisconsin: Starting hours for rails and gallinules on the first day of season, 1 p.m.

(Note: The season for hunting rails and gallinules in Alabama, Michigan and Wisconsin will be prescribed in August.)

CENTRAL FLYWAY STATES

Rails and Gallinules (1) MOURNING OR
TURTLE DOVE

SORA OTHERS

DAILY BAG LIMITS

25 15 (2)

10

POSSESSION LIMITS

25 15 (2)

10

SEASONS IN--

Colorado

Kansas

Montana

Nebraska

New Mexico (3)

North Dakota

Oklahoma

South Dakota

Texas

Wyoming

Sept. 1-Oct. 5

Sept. 1-Sept. 30

Sept. 1-Oct. 30

Sept. 1-Oct. 12

Sept. 1-Oct. 30

Sept. 1-Sept. 30

Sept. 1-Oct. 30

See footnotes 4, 5

(1) Rails and gallinules: When permitted to be taken during the waterfowl season they may not be hunted after 1 hour before sunset.

(2) Not more than 15 in the aggregate of rails (other than sora) and gallinules.

(3) New Mexico: Starting hour for mourning doves on first day of season, 12 o'clock noon.

CENTRAL FLYWAY STATES (Continued)

- (4) Texas: Mourning doves in Val Verde, Kinney, Uvalde, Medina, Bexar, Comal, Hays, Travis, Williamson, Milam, Robertson, Leon, Houston, Cherokee, Nacogdoches, and Shelby Counties and all counties north and west thereof, Sept. 1 to Oct. 10 from 12 o'clock noon until sunset; in the rest of State (but not including Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, Zapata, Webb, Maverick, Dimmit, La Salle, Jim Hogg, Brooks, Kenedy, and Willacy Counties), Oct. 1 to Nov. 9, from 12 o'clock noon until sunset; in these latter counties Sept. 11, 13, and 15 from 4 p.m. until sunset and from Oct. 1 to Nov. 6 from 12 o'clock noon until sunset.
- (5) Texas: White-winged doves in Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, Zapata, Webb, Maverick, Kinney, Dimmit, La Salle, Jim Hogg, Brooks, Kenedy, Willacy, Val Verde, Terrell, Brewster, Presidio, Jeff Davis, Culberson, Hudspeth and El Paso Counties, Sept. 11, 13 and 15 from 4 p.m. until sunset; daily bag and possession limit for white-winged or mourning doves is not more than 10 singly or in the aggregate of both kinds; no open season in rest of State.

(Note: The season for hunting rails and gallinules in Kansas and New Mexico will be prescribed in August.)

PACIFIC FLYWAY STATES

	<u>RAILS AND GALLINULES (1)</u>	<u>MOURNING OR TURTLE DOVE</u>	<u>BAND-TAILED PIGEONS</u>
	<u>SORA</u>	<u>OTHERS</u>	
DAILY BAG LIMITS	25	15 (2)	6
POSSESSION LIMITS	25	15 (2)	6
SEASONS IN--			
Arizona (3)	Sept. 1-Oct. 30	Sept. 1-Oct. 12	
California (3) (4)		Sept. 1-Sept. 30	See footnote 5
Idaho		See footnote 6	
Nevada		Sept. 1-Sept. 30	
Oregon		Sept. 1-Sept. 15	Sept. 1-Sept. 30
Utah		Sept. 1-Sept. 15	
Washington		Sept. 1-Sept. 15	Sept. 1-Sept. 30
Alaska (7)			

- (1) Rails and gallinules: When permitted to be taken during the waterfowl season they may not be hunted after 1 hour before sunset.
- (2) Not more than 15 in the aggregate of rails (other than sora) and gallinules.
- (3) White-winged dove: Arizona, Sept. 1 to Oct. 12. California, in Imperial and Riverside Counties only, Sept. 1 to Sept. 30. The daily bag and possession limit for white-winged or mourning doves is not more than 10 singly or in the aggregate of both kinds.
- (4) California: Starting hour for doves on first day of season, 12 o'clock noon.
- (5) California: Band-tailed pigeons, in the counties of Del Norte, Siskiyou, Modoc, Lassen, Humboldt, Trinity, and Tehama, Oct. 16 to Oct. 31; in rest of State Dec. 1 to Dec. 31.
- (6) Idaho: Mourning doves, no open season in Boundary, Bonner, Benewah, Shoshone, Kootenai, Bear Lake, Caribou, and Teton Counties; in rest of State, Sept. 1 to Sept. 15

PACIFIC FLYWAY STATES (Continued)

- (7) Alaska: Ducks, geese, brant, and coot. In the First Judicial Division and the Kodiak-Afognak Island group Sept. 15 to Nov. 28. In the Second, Third (except Kodiak-Afognak Island group) and Fourth Judicial Divisions Sept. 1 to Nov. 14; provided that scoter, eider and merganser ducks may be taken in the Third Judicial Division west of 152° west longitude and in the Second and Fourth Judicial Divisions from Sept. 1 to Dec. 15. The daily bag limit for scoters and eiders is 10 singly or in the aggregate and the possession limit is not more than 20 singly or in the aggregate of all kinds. The daily bag limit for American and red-breasted mergansers is 25 singly or in the aggregate of both kinds with no possession limit after the first day of the season. Limits for other ducks 7 a day, 14 in possession. Other limits: coot 15 a day, 15 in possession; brant 3 a day, 6 in possession; and geese 3 a day, 6 in possession of one kind or in the aggregate of all kinds.